



STATE OF WASHINGTON
MILITARY DEPARTMENT

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Governor Gregoire leads wildland fire table top exercise

Camp Murray, Wash. – Providing continuing leadership following a meeting she hosted with fellow governors from the Pacific Northwest in April 2005, Gov. Christine Gregoire led senior-level officials in a Wildland Fire table top exercise today at the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Camp Murray.

"I'm very pleased with how the session went this afternoon," Gov. Gregoire said after the exercise, which focused on state government's role in fighting wildfires.

"Our team was presented with a hypothetical scenario that featured a rapidly escalating wildland fire in Central Washington. The scenario was dramatic, but also within the realm of possibility, and we're better prepared because of it."

In addition to the governor, more than 40 agency heads and staff members from local, state and federal agencies participated in the table top exercise, which focused on the inner workings of interagency coordination, with special emphasis placed on Washington State's Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan.

"We learned more about each agency's plans and capabilities," said the governor, "and more critically, how a multitude of personnel from all levels of government will work together to protect people and property from wildfires."

In addition to the Governor's Office and Office of Financial Management, Washington state agencies represented at the exercise were the Washington Military Department (WMD); the Department of Natural Resources; the Washington State Patrol, including the State Fire Marshal's Office; the Departments of Transportation; Health; Ecology; Fish and Wildlife; Information Services; Revenue; Parks and Recreation; Community, Trade and Economic Development; Corrections; and Social and Health Services. Local and federal levels of government were represented by Clark County Fire District #13 and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The exercise was conducted at the State EOC at Camp Murray, which is operated by WMD's Emergency Management Division.

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